United Nations S/2008/60

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 30 January 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I received a letter dated 29 January 2008 from the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Fuad Siniora (see annex), in which he requested technical assistance for the Government of Lebanon's efforts to investigate the murder of Major Wissam Eid of the Internal Security Forces, Adjutant Oussama Merheb and other civilians. The Government requested that the International Independent Investigation Commission contact the relevant Lebanese authorities for that purpose.

Since the Commission reports to the Security Council, I am transmitting this request to you, and through you to the other members of the Council, in order for members to take appropriate action.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-22429 (E) 310108

Annex

Letter dated 29 January 2008 from the Prime Minister of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you regarding the heinous terrorist act on Friday, 25 January 2008, in the eastern suburb of Beirut, which took the lives of Major Wissam Eid, of the Internal Security Forces, Adjutant Oussama Merheb and other innocent civilians. Major Eid was heading the technical department in the Intelligence Service of the Internal Security Forces and played a central role in uncovering the perpetrators of several of the terrorist assassinations and attacks that Lebanon has witnessed in the recent period.

Based on the previous agreement between the International Independent Investigation Commission and the Lebanese Government, we hereby request technical assistance in the effort to investigate the murder of Major Eid.

We request that the International Independent Investigation Commission contact the relevant Lebanese authorities for that purpose.

(*Signed*) Fuad **Siniora**

United Nations S/2008/61

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31 January 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 31 January 2008 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

The members of the Security Council have carefully considered your letter dated 30 January 2008 (S/2008/60), regarding the request of the Government of Lebanon for technical assistance from the International Independent Investigation Commission in the effort to investigate the murder of Major Wissam Eid of the Internal Security Forces, Adjutant Oussama Merheb and other civilians.

Determined to continue to assist the Government of Lebanon in the search for the truth and to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of that terrorist attack and of other terrorist attacks and assassinations committed in Lebanon (see S/PRST/2007/47), we refer to resolutions 1644 (2005) and 1748 (2007) and invite the Commission to extend appropriate technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation and invite the Secretary-General to so inform the Government of Lebanon and the Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission.

(*Signed*) Giadalla A. **Ettalhi**
President of the Security Council

08-22437 (E) 310108

United Nations S/2008/62

Security Council

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1 February 2008
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 31 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to address you in your capacity as President of the United Nations Security Council for the month of January, regarding the Security Council debate held yesterday on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine.

In this connection, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Non-Aligned Movement's due response to the fallacious remarks made against it by the Permanent Representative of Israel during the aforesaid debate (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement

08-22520 (E) 040208 040208

Annex to the letter dated 31 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Response from the Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement to the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Israel at the meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On the occasion of the meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, held on 30 January 2008, the Permanent Representative of Israel made several offensive and distorted remarks regarding the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the item under discussion.

The Permanent Representative of Israel falsely accused the Movement, among other things, of supporting terrorism and of action motivated by political aversion towards the State of Israel.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) did not have the opportunity to respond immediately to those remarks because our legitimate request to participate in the aforementioned meeting was rejected by certain members of the Council. Nevertheless, the truth should and will be said and the record will be set straight.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, which is composed of 118 sovereign States, I strongly reject the fallacious, misleading and provocative remarks of the Permanent Representative of Israel.

Once again, he tried to create a smokescreen to divert attention from the real issues and to distort and hide the facts on the ground, which are starkly evident to all. The Representative of the Government of Israel is totally mistaken if he thinks that distorting the long-standing principled NAM positions regarding the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, will deter the Movement from expressing those positions in every appropriate international forum, including the Security Council.

NAM will continue to express its strong opposition to the illegal Israeli occupation and its full support of the establishment of the independent State of Palestine in all of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel, with East Jerusalem as its capital; we will continue to denounce the lack of respect for international law by the occupying Power as the major obstacle to the success of efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace; we will continue to demand that Israel withdraw completely from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967; we will not be silent about Israel's relentless aggression and serious violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon

We express the hope that instead of distorting and ridiculing NAM positions, the Government of Israel will focus from now on on demonstrating a real commitment, not only in words and rhetoric, but with genuine actions to advance the peace process.

The Non-Aligned Movement will continue, as has always been the case, to strongly support the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) and on the principle of land for peace.

New York, 31 January 2008

United Nations S/2008/63

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 31 January 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to Security Council resolution 1793 (2007), by which the Council requested me to submit for its consideration by 31 January 2008 a completion strategy for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), including: (a) at least a 20 per cent reduction in staff by 31 March 2008; (b) a continued mission at 80 per cent of the strength as at 21 December 2007 until 30 June 2008; and (c) the termination of the UNIOSIL mandate by 30 September 2008. In the same resolution, the Council also requested me to ensure that UNIOSIL maintains adequate capacity, expertise and resources to implement its mandate of providing assistance to the 2008 local government elections and national institutions promoting good governance and human rights, as well as supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in cooperation with UNIOSIL, has developed a completion strategy that takes into account the Council's request to ensure that the mission has sufficient remaining capacity to complete its mandated tasks.

Completion strategy of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone

Reduction in staff by 31 March 2008

The authorized staffing strength of UNIOSIL currently stands at 309 and comprises 85 international personnel, 199 national staff/National Professional Officers and 25 United Nations Volunteers. In order to determine the number of staff required to perform the remaining tasks mandated by the Council, UNIOSIL conducted a section-by-section assessment of the remaining tasks and the personnel required to implement them. Those tasks include assisting the Government in its efforts to reform the Constitution, enhance democratic governance, strengthen the security, judicial and corrections sectors, promote human rights, strengthen women's participation in the political process and address the root causes of the conflict as identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The mission will also continue to monitor and assess the political and security developments in the country, support policy dialogue, promote inter-party dialogue, facilitate the engagement of Sierra Leone with the Peacebuilding Commission and assist the Government in the conduct of the local government elections, which are currently scheduled for 5 July 2008.

08-22556 (E) 050208

On the basis of the mission-wide review, it was determined that UNIOSIL could be downsized by 62 posts, representing 20 per cent of the mission's authorized staffing complement, by 31 March 2008, thereby bringing its staffing strength to 247 civilian staff. The 62 posts will comprise 15 international staff members (4 P-3 and 11 Field Service), 43 national staff and 4 United Nations Volunteers. Of the 15 international staff members, 4 are assigned to the mission's substantive sections, while 11 are assigned to its administrative and security sections. Of the 43 national staff, 8 are from the substantive component and 35 are from the administrative and security components. Of the four Volunteers, one is assigned to the substantive component and three to the administrative component.

To ensure that the mission retains the requisite capacity to effectively perform its remaining tasks, UNIOSIL is in the process of streamlining tasks within each section. In addition, the mission will transfer some of its activities, including the recruitment of United Nations Volunteers who will provide technical assistance to the National Electoral Commission during the elections, to relevant United Nations agencies.

Tasks to be performed by the remaining 80 per cent of staff

Until its mandate expires in September 2008, UNIOSIL will continue to implement the following key tasks set out in Security Council resolutions 1620 (2005), 1734 (2006) and 1793 (2007), namely:

- Assisting the Government in the conduct of local government elections. UNIOSIL will provide policy advice and technical and logistical assistance to the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission. It will also assist the Government in defusing political and ethnic tensions and in promoting dialogue among key political parties, especially in the light of the political and ethnic divisions that were highlighted by the 2007 general elections, which may intensify in the period leading up to the local government elections in 2008. The mission will also assist in coordinating technical, financial and logistical support for the elections.

- Monitoring the security situation in the country and strengthening the capacity of the national security sector. UNIOSIL will support the Government's efforts to strengthen the capacity of the security sector, including the Sierra Leone Police and the Office of National Security. In its effort to assist in building the capacity of the police to provide effective security during the local government elections, UNIOSIL will advise and mentor the Sierra Leone Police in crowd-control management and polling centre responsibilities. It will also assist the police in specialized areas such as criminal investigations, airport and border security, civilian oversight and improving professional standards. A total of 22 United Nations police advisers are currently performing those functions. Between March and August 2008, five police advisers will depart from the mission without being replaced. The remaining 17 will depart by 30 September.

- Promoting transparency and accountability. UNIOSIL will promote good governance, including through measures to combat corruption and improve accountability. In this regard, the mission will offer policy guidance to the Government and the Anti-Corruption Commission in the implementation of the Sierra Leone anti-corruption strategy and its Improved Governance and Accountability Pact. UNIOSIL will also coordinate international support for building the capacity of Parliament.

- Monitoring and promoting human rights and the rule of law. UNIOSIL will monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country and assist in building the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission and in reforming the judicial and corrections sectors. The mission will also support the Government in the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and in the preparation of reports and their submission to international treaty bodies.

- Promoting a culture of peace, dialogue and participation through United Nations Radio. Through United Nations Radio, UNIOSIL will continue to promote a culture of peace, dialogue and participation and encourage the holding of peaceful, fair and transparent local elections. United Nations Radio will also maintain its role of providing a forum for civic education, debate of national issues and balanced reporting on events nationwide. Plans for the transition of United Nations Radio assets into a national independent public service broadcaster, including a proposal for funding this transition, are being developed by UNIOSIL.

- Implementing resolution 1325 (2000). UNIOSIL will support national efforts aimed at building the capacity of the Sierra Leonean Government and civil society organizations to promote the empowerment of women and their participation in the decision-making process and the local council elections. The mission will also work closely with national stakeholders to reduce the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence.

- Facilitating the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. In its efforts to assist the Government in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone, UNIOSIL will facilitate engagement between Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission through the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework adopted on 12 December 2007. The mission will also facilitate the implementation of projects under the Peacebuilding Fund.

Termination of the mission's mandate by 30 September 2008

Following the local government elections on 5 July 2008, UNIOSIL will gradually draw down its remaining personnel. It is envisaged that the drawdown will begin with substantive personnel, while the administrative and logistical staff needed to complete the liquidation process will withdraw last. It will be important to ensure that there is a smooth transition from UNIOSIL to the follow-on integrated political office referred to in my fifth report on UNIOSIL (S/2007/704).

I intend to submit to the Security Council any possible additional proposals on the mission's drawdown, as well as on the mandate, structure and strength of the follow-on integrated political office, in a report on UNIOSIL to be submitted in April.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon